

HOUSE BILL NO. 585

INTRODUCED BY MCCLAFFERTY, ARNTZEN, AUGARE, BELCOURT, DICKENSON, EBINGER,
HAMILTON, HINER, HOLLENBAUGH, HOWARD, MACDONALD, MALEK, MEHLHOFF, P. NOONAN,
PEASE-LOPEZ, ROUNDSTONE, SESSO, VILLA, WILMER, WILSON, P. BECK, KEANE, A. NOONAN

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROMOTING MONTANA'S FAMILY HUNTING HERITAGE BY
CREATING NONRESIDENT COMBINATION HUNTING LICENSES THAT MAY BE USED BY ADULT
NONRESIDENT FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WISH TO RETURN TO MONTANA TO HUNT WITH A SPONSOR
OR FAMILY MEMBER; ESTABLISHING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF LICENSURE AND
SPONSORSHIP; DEDICATING MONEY FROM THE SALE OF THE LICENSES TO THE ACQUISITION OF
PUBLIC HUNTING ACCESS TO INACCESSIBLE PUBLIC LAND; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE
DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

WHEREAS, Montana's hunting heritage is promoted when families can continue to hunt together; and
WHEREAS, members of many Montana families have been required to move out of state to pursue
expanded employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, it can be difficult for these adult nonresident family members to draw a nonresident license
in order to come back to Montana to hunt with their families; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for new revenue to address public land access concerns because access
to public land for hunting is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain as traditional routes across private land are
closed to public hunters; and

WHEREAS, creating a temporary new pool of nonresident licenses dedicated to former residents who
desire to return to Montana to hunt with their families and directing the revenue from those licenses to fund public
access to inaccessible public land would assist in strengthening both aspects of Montana's hunting heritage; and

WHEREAS, statistics compiled by the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks will provide a measurement
of the success of the pilot program to provide more opportunities for former residents to come back home to hunt
and to determine whether the license and the associated public land access efforts have resulted in a net
increase or decrease in hunting opportunities for resident hunters.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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2 **NEW SECTION. Section 1. License for nonresident to hunt with resident sponsor or family**
3 **member -- use of license revenue.** (1) In addition to the nonresident licenses provided for in 87-2-505 and
4 87-2-510, the department may offer for sale 500 B-10 nonresident big game combination licenses and 500 B-11
5 nonresident deer combination licenses. The licenses may be used only as provided in this section and as
6 authorized by department rules. Sale of licenses pursuant to this section may not affect the license quotas
7 established in 87-2-505 and 87-2-510. The price of licenses sold under this subsection must be the same as
8 nonresident big game combination licenses and nonresident deer combination licenses offered by general
9 drawing pursuant to 87-2-505 and 87-2-510.

10 (2) A license authorized in subsection (1) may be used only by an adult nonresident family member of
11 a resident who sponsors the license application and who meets the qualifications of subsection (3). The
12 nonresident family member must have completed a Montana hunter safety and education course prior to March
13 1, 2010, or have previously purchased a resident hunting license. A nonresident family member who receives
14 a license pursuant to subsection (1) must be accompanied in the field by a sponsor or family member who meets
15 the qualifications of subsection (3).

16 (3) To qualify as a sponsor or family member who will accompany a nonresident licensed under
17 subsection (1), a person must be a resident, as defined in 87-2-102, who is 18 years old or older AND POSSESSES
18 A CURRENT RESIDENT HUNTING LICENSE and who is related to the nonresident within the second degree of kinship
19 by blood or marriage. The second degree of kinship includes a mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter,
20 spouse, grandparent, grandchild, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law,
21 mother-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, stepsister, stepson, and stepdaughter. The sponsor shall list
22 on the license application the names of family members who are eligible to hunt with the nonresident hunter.

23 (4) If the department receives more applications for licenses than the number that are available under
24 subsection (1), the department shall conduct a drawing for the licenses. Applicants who are unsuccessful in the
25 drawing must be entered in the general drawing for a nonresident license provided under 87-2-505 or 87-2-510,
26 as applicable.

27 (5) All money received from the sale of licenses under subsection (1) must be deposited in a separate
28 account and must be used by the department to acquire public hunting access to inaccessible public land, which
29 may include obtaining hunting access through private land to inaccessible public land.

1 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
2 integral part of Title 87, chapter 2, part 5, and the provisions of Title 87, chapter 2, part 5, apply to [section 1].

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4 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective March 1, 2010.

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6 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Termination.** [This act] terminates March 1, 2014.

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